

A Monster Iceberg.

"On my journey north," writes Lacey Amy in the *Wide World Magazine*. "We had striking evidence of the possibilities of the iceberg even before we reached Battle Harbor, the most southerly settlement on the Labrador coast. Just before sundown we could see ahead a strangely misty object blending elusively into water and sky in the way that so often takes the heart from a photographer. Its flat horizontal top was its first noticeable feature, but as we approached its great size made us forget everything else. The captain ran as close as he dared, and its mile of length and sixty feet of height rose near us like a magnificent block left at the door by the ice-man, with the difference that in this gigantic block there was enough ice to stock all America for years. Since the opening of navigation it had been in the same place, stranded two miles outside our course, and at that time it was three miles long and a mile wide. On our return some weeks later it was still there, but in the moonlight we saw three blocks instead of one. The sun was doing its work."

Singing Birds' Deadly Rivalry.

It is well known that caged chaffinches are celebrated for their eagerness to compete with one another in singing. They deliver their songs alternately until one is exhausted and unable to take up his turn. So excited do the birds become that it occasionally happens that one of the competitors drops down dead. The originating and directive causes of the particular song of different kinds of birds is not understood. But it is established that they have a great gift of imitation. Parrots, piping crows, ravens and other such birds are familiar instances, while little birds such as bullfinches can be trained to whistle the melodies which human beings have invented. Even the house sparrow, which, though allied to singing finches, never sings when in natural conditions, has been converted into a songster by bringing it up in company with piping bullfinches.—*London Express*.

One Way to Sell a Horse.

During the Peninsular war, when the British army was in front of the enemy, Colonel Mellish appeared mounted upon a wretched steed, which provoked the derision of his fellow officers.

"It isn't worth \$5," one of them remarked.

"I'll bet you \$50 I get over \$40 for him," said the colonel.

"Done!" exclaimed the other.

The harebrained colonel immediately rode off in the direction of the enemy, who, of course, fired upon him. Nothing daunted, the colonel continued to advance until his horse was killed under him, when he hastily freed himself and returned to the British lines, where he promptly claimed the wager.

The money was handed over to him by the other unlucky officer, for the government then allowed a sum of \$45 for every officer's horse killed in action.—*London Globe*.

Market For Everything.

"Is there such a thing as secondhand brass band instruments? Why, certainly," said a musical instrument man. "Why shouldn't there be? You can buy secondhand yachts, pianos, steam boilers, bricks, secondhand anything on earth—why not secondhand band instruments? How do they come to be offered secondhand? Why, just as anything else does. Somebody gives up using an instrument, and then he sells it; or somebody wants to buy a better instrument and then sells the old one. And for all these secondhand instruments there is a market. They may be sold to beginners or to players, and such a thing has been heard of as a new band equipping itself throughout with secondhand instruments for the sake of economy."—*Pittsburgh Press*.

With as a Noun.

When Walter Scott was a boy his teacher asked him to give the part of speech of the word "with."

"It's a noun," said young Scott.

"You are very stupid," said the teacher. "How came you to say such a thing?"

"I got it from the Bible, sir," said the future novelist stoutly. "There's a verse that says 'they bound Samson with withs.'"

Cave Spiders.

Spiders of several kinds are found in caves. They are uniformly small, weak and of sedentary habits. No web do they spin save a few irregular threads sometimes. What they live upon is rather a puzzle, though it is supposed that they catch stray mites and other such small fry.

Burns' Poverty.

Robert Burns, writing only fourteen days before his death, implored his friend Cunningham to use his influence with the commissioners of excise in order to get his salary raised from \$25 a year to \$50, "otherwise if I die not of disease I must perish with hunger."

Very Much So.

"I saw young Jones do a touching act today."

"What was it? Did he rescue a human derelict or did he help a poor mother?"

"No; he borrowed \$5 from father."—*Baltimore American*.

Draft of a Vessel.

Draft is the distance in feet from the lowest part of the bottom of a vessel to the actual water line at which the vessel is floating.

Who troubles others has no rest himself.—*Italian Proverb*.

Arabs and Girl Babies.

It is a sad day in an Arab home when a girl is born. The musicians who have come to the house with their drums, their shepherd's pipes and all their strange musical instruments burst into wild wailing if the door is seen to open slowly and a head shake silently and sadly and then withdraw behind the closed door. All the rare food which has been prepared in the hopes that the new arrival is a boy is put away and the wailing guests turned from the house. For why, they say, should one feast and have music when another superfluous woman has been brought into the world? Though human nature is what it is, the little girl is not wholly unloved. She is given some pretty name, such as, translated, would be "star," or "dawn," or "pretty," or "pleasant." When a boy is born the rejoicing, on the contrary, is hilarious in the extreme. Welcomes are chanted by stringed instruments, the praises of the family are sung, and a forecast of the great deeds to be done by the son are recited.—*Exchange*.

In a Quandry.

In a foothill California district there is a man who runs a small ferry across one of the rivers, charging twenty-five cents for one transportation of a single team and forty cents for a double one. One afternoon in the early days of automobiling a city man drove up to the ferry in a touring car and attempted to go on to the boat, but was held up by the captain, who told him to wait. Finally, after the boat had crossed the river two or three times, the motorist began to get impatient. "Can't take ye over yet," answered the captain in response to the motorist's demands. "Yer the fust one o' them things that ever crossed here, an' I don't know what ter charge ye." "Don't know what to charge me?" "Nope; I've sized ye up fore and aft, an' I'm durned if I know whether to charge ye as a single rig or a double team."—*Argonaut*.

Chinese Locks.

The earliest locks known to man were of Chinese make. Although it is impossible to tell the exact date of those still extant, they are wonderfully well made and as strong as any manufactured in Europe to the middle of the eighteenth century. The Chinese locksmith of today uses exactly the same kind of tools that his forefathers had, for they are very simple and primitive. He carries all his implements in two cabinets, sitting on one and working at the other. When he has finished all the work available in one neighborhood he fastens the two cabinets to a bamboo rod and slings it over his shoulder. He tramps through the towns burdened in this way and stops when he is called, much as a scissor grinder or umbrella mender does in our country.—*Wide World Magazine*.

Ordinary Ventilation.

Authorities compute that each adult person in a room requires at least thirty cubic feet of fresh air per minute to maintain a fair standard of purity; hence the air changes required per hour primarily depend upon the number of workmen in the shop, together with its cubical contents. If the rooms are large and the workmen few the necessary air changes per hour are lessened, so that this figure depends for its determination upon local conditions. J. Byers Holbrook allows "One change of air per hour for the average type of city building," increasing this allowance for corridors and first floors. Other engineers designate variously from a fraction of one change to as high as three changes per hour for different sets of conditions.—*D. M. Myers in Engineering Magazine*.

Story of a Seeress.

Grant Duff in his diary tells a curious story of a "seeress." Mlle. Lenormand was consulted by Robespierre and Napoleon I. Grant Duff's father had a strange experience with Mlle. Lenormand. He and a friend went to consult her, and after she had told him what he wanted to know she tried with the friend, but became confused, said her heart failed her and begged him to leave the house. He persuaded her to try again, and again the same result followed. Then, declaring that this had never happened to her before, she lost all patience and implored him to leave instantly. He did so and as he passed out of her door was knocked down and killed by a heavy wagon.

Forks.

Neither the Greeks nor the Romans possessed forks. It was, according to that curious book of travels, "Coryat's Crudities," published in 1611, left to Italy to invent them, because, as the author quaintly observes, "the Italian cannot by any means endure to have his dish touched with hands, seeing that all men's fingers are not alike clean."

A Serious Conclusion.

"Is your daughter still taking music lessons?"

"No," replied Mr. Growcher. "After hearing her sing and play lately I have concluded that she doesn't need a teacher any more. What she wants is a censor."—*Washington Star*.

His Consolation.

"Very fine, that tax on capital—the income tax?"

"What is that to you?"

"To me? It consoles me for not being rich."—*Paris Illustration*.

Society Note.

The ambition of some men is to live long enough to hear of a bride who is not "prominently known in the younger social set."—*Cleveland Leader*.

Battles in the Snow.

One of the most severe winters ever experienced was that of 1812, the year of Napoleon's great Russian campaign. On June 24 of that year he invaded Russia with an army of 600,000 men. Moscow was reached on Sept. 14, and a month later, after the Russians had burned that town to the ground, Napoleon commenced his retreat. The army of 600,000 was almost wiped out. Men froze to death by hundreds as they camped, and when at last the Russian frontier was reached only 150,000 men were left alive.

In the Crimean war England lost altogether 20,000 men. Actual fighting, however, was only responsible for 12 per cent of these deaths. Cold and disease were the causes of the other 88 per cent of deaths.

During the Franco-German campaign of 1870 another severe winter was experienced. To the thousands of Germans investing Paris the cold meant little. They had the whole country to draw on, but to the besieged and starving French it meant terrible suffering. The city surrendered in January after four months' siege.—*Pearson's*.

Listen to Your Conscience.

Almost daily in every breast there is some tragedy enacted. A plot and a counterplot, a hero and a victim, a climax and a catastrophe, remorse and restitution—all these confusedly intermingled with scenes of our inner consciousness. And he who selects out of it all as the type of his dominating thought the morbid and the hateful thus starves and shrivels up his own highest nature and poisons the lives of others. But he who in the midst of these chaotic scenes can listen attentively to the whisperings of the still, small voice thereby nourishes his soul to a degree of bigness and strength that make him a power for righteousness in any community. But the real secret of materializing our highest thoughts in the form of deeds is to act readily and willingly upon the promptings of the inner spirit. To procrastinate, however, is in time to render this inner voice forever silent.—*Symphony Calendar*.

Told to Earn His Own Salary.

Commodore Vanderbilt discovered in James H. Rutter, then in the employ of the Erie railroad, a man he believed the freight department of the Central needed. It is related that some time after he took charge of the Central's traffic office Rutter called on the commodore to submit a plan for improvement. When he had stated the case the president looked at him sharply and asked:

"Butter, what does the New York Central pay you \$15,000 a year for?"

The reply was, "For managing the freight traffic department."

And then the commodore said, "Well, you don't expect me to earn your salary for you, do you?"

Rutter went out and carried through his plan on his own judgment. The result was highly satisfactory. Rutter became president of the Central.

The Likelier One.

The late Admiral Mahan was once arguing with a lady at a luncheon about the British navy.

"But, my dear madam," said the admiral, "it is hard to argue with you because you are so—er, pardon me—so ignorant."

"You remind me of the young wife who said to her brother about her volunteer husband:

"Isn't Jack just wonderful? Think! He's already been promoted to field marshal!"

"From private to field marshal in two months? Impossible!" said the brother.

"Did I say field marshal?" murmured the young wife. "Well, perhaps it's court martial. I know it's one or the other."—*Washington Star*.

Kipling's Tribute to Mark Twain.

Kipling wrote of Mark Twain: "He put his hand upon my shoulder. It was an investiture of the Star of India, blue silk, trumpets and diamond studded jewel, all complete. If hereafter in the changes and chances of this mortal life I fall to careless ruin I will tell the superintendent of the workhouse that Mark Twain once put his hand on my shoulder and he shall give me a room to myself and a double allowance of tobacco."

Contradicted.

A certain physician told some of his patients that as long as they kept their feet dry they would be safe from an attack of the grip. One day he was surprised to receive a letter from a patient in which the latter said that he had two wooden legs, and yet he had had the grip five consecutive years.

Just Even.

A Massachusetts candidate for congress after the election filed a beautifully negative account of his campaign expenses. It said, "I expected nothing, promised nothing, expected nothing, got nothing." So he would seem to be just even with the game.—*Brownings Magazine*.

Her Business.

"It is no use trying to steal a march on that pretty girl at the glove counter."

"Why not?"

"She has a way of making every one show one's hand."—*Baltimore American*.

He Can Draw.

Bill—Is his boy learning to draw at college? Jim—Oh, yes. He draws on the old man every month.—*Yonkers Statesman*.

Maintain your post. That's all the fame you need.—*Dryden*.

Human Levers.

All man made machinery runs with wheels. Yet there is not a single wheel in the human body. And the human body is the most perfect piece of mechanism in the world. It seems strange that man has developed mechanics along all lines but those with which his own body works. Practically every motion we make is performed by the direct operation of levers, and living creatures are the only machines so built. Almost all these human levers are of one kind, that commonly called the third. There are three kinds of levers: (1) that in which the fulcrum is between the power and the weight, or resistance, as in a pair of scissors; (2) that in which the weight or resistance is between the fulcrum and the power, as in an oar; (3) that in which the power is between the fulcrum and the weight, as in a pair of grass clippers. It is true that each of these forms of levers is used in mechanics, but no great machine has ever been built on the purely lever principle.—*New York World*.

Japan's Hokey Pokey Men.

Japanese children are amused by the rice jelly molders, or amezakuya, as American children are by the hokey pokey ice cream itinerant. Beating a drum, he goes up and down city streets with a small box on his bamboo pole or on a small cart, paper flags of various colors decorating his outfit. Ame is a kind of jelly made from rice, of which all Japanese children are extremely fond. The ame seller stops when the children gather round him, and he amuses them by molding all kinds of shapes, from a fish to a bird, which he sticks on a piece of bamboo and sells to his audience for a mere nothing. He can blow up the ame like a glass blower, making a globe "or a large sized" animal or fish, as he wills, and each child chooses the object he most fancies. Each object created is painted with a vegetable coloring in lifelike colors, and with each purchase he gives away a paper flag. He is a picturesque feature at all temple festivals.—*Bulletin of Japan Society*.

Bagdad's Mysterious Scourge.

An uncanny, pernicious pest called the "date boll" scars the face of every human born in Bagdad. Children invariably have this dreadful sore on their faces. Throughout the middle east this mysterious scourge is known by various names—"Buton d'Alep," "Nile sore," "Dehli button," etc. Its cause and its cure are unknown. First a faint red spot appears, growing larger and running a course often eighteen months long.

White men from foreign lands have lived years in Arabia, only to have this boll appear upon their return to civilization, where its presence is embarrassing and hard to explain. Maybe it was "date bolls" that Job had! Once a British consul at Aleppo lost almost his whole nose from one of these bolls. Nearly every Bagdad native you meet has this "date mark" on his face.—*National Geographic Magazine*.

A Substitute For Spectacles.

At a meeting of the Academy of Medicine in Paris Dr. Lemaire recommended a novel method for reading print for the use of those who happen to have forgotten their spectacles. The method is to take a piece of paper and perforate it with a pin, making numerous small holes. This paper must be held close to the eye and the reading matter at a distance from the eyes. A test of this method shows that it slightly enlarges the print to be read and that a book or newspaper can be held further away from the eyes than would ordinarily be possible to a near sighted man who had mislaid his glasses. However, the method is useless for prolonged reading, being valuable only when one must read a few paragraphs.

Neighborhood Melody.

"Please, ma'am," said the little girl from next door, "mother wants to know if you will lend her your new mechanical tune player this afternoon."

"What an extraordinary idea! Is she going to give a dance?"

"No, ma'am. We're tired of dancing to it. She wants to keep it quiet for a couple of hours so that the baby can sleep."—*Washington Star*.

Sugar Water.

Eau sucree is said to dispel thirst more efficaciously than any other drink, and it is simplicity itself. Put three large lumps of sugar in a tumbler with a tablespoonful of water and allow the sugar to dissolve, then fill up with more cold water. The French say that the perfection of this drink consists in letting the sugar first melt slowly in a small quantity of water.

Longest Sentence.

"It says here that the longest sentence in the English language contains 140 words," observed the old fogey.

"That's wrong," replied the grouch. "The longest sentence contains only one word."

"What is that?" asked the old fogey.

"Life," replied the grouch.

Back to Earth.

Rankin—Have you never been to Niagara falls? Phyle—Yes, but I want to go again some day and see the scenery. The first time I went I was on my honeymoon.—*Judge*.

Early Artillery.

The earliest artillery guns were made from wrought iron bars, bound together like the staves of a cask by the shrinking over them of iron hoops.—*London Tit-Bits*.

The love of self increases with the age.—*Juvenal*.



VOTE FOR
Oscar DePriest
Regular Republican Candidate for
ALDERMAN
OF THE 2nd WARD
Endorsed by the Regular 2nd Ward
Republican Organization

Residence, 4630 Evans Avenue
Tel. Kenwood 5466

Dr. H. REGINALD SMITH

EYE GLASSES
SCIENTIFICALLY FITTED

Office, 3401 S. State St., Chicago
Office Hours: 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. 7 to 9 P. M.
Phone Douglas 1248 Auto. 77-89

Gift of the Gods.

A meat packer's wagon rattled over the cobblestones down First avenue. Overhead roared an elevated train, and in the sunshine on the curb sat five boys shooting craps.

Suddenly one of them darted out into the street, swung himself up on the passing wagon, seized a ham and jumped off—into the arms of a "white wing."

This agent of the city, after appropriating the ham, gave the boy a rigorous shaking and flung him toward the sidewalk.

Immediately all five boys vanished into the ether.

The "white wing" looked down the street and the wagon had disappeared as completely as the boys, with the driver quite unconscious of any unusual stir.

He looked in every direction; then, doubtless thanking the gods for their gift, he wrapped the ham in a newspaper and he too disappeared down a side street.—*New York Post*.

A Novel Craft.

In the harbor of Port Weller, the Ontario entrance of the Welland ship canal, says the *Engineering News*, the surveying staff uses a flat bottomed boat that can lift itself clear of the water. It is a drill boat or sounding scow, of catamaran model, built particularly for the work of finding the elevation of the rock that underlies the bottom of the river. In order to have a steady platform on which to work during rough weather the surveyors had the scow made with a slot at each corner, through which a very heavy spud or post can be raised or lowered. The lifting mechanism consists of a wheel on top of each post, over which a wire cable passes from the side of the scow to an individual engine. When the scow heaves and sways in the water too much workmen start the four engines, and presently the scow is standing firm, with its four stout legs on the bottom of the river.

Slipshod English.

Here are some specimens of very common errors:

Admit for confess. To admit is to concede something affirmed. An unaccused offender cannot admit his guilt.

Adopt. "He adopted a disguise." One may adopt a child or an opinion, but a disguise is assumed.

Aggravate for irritate. "He aggravated me by his insolence." To aggravate is to augment the disagreeableness of something already disagreeable or the badness of something bad. But a person cannot be aggravated, even if disagreeable or bad.

All of. "He gave all of his property." The words are contradictory. An entire thing cannot be of itself. Omit the preposition.

At for by. "She was shocked at his conduct." This very common solecism is without excuse.—*Exchange*.

Trenches in War.

The late British general Sir William Butler in the course of an article that appeared in a military magazine nearly forty years ago thus spoke his mind about the use of trenches in time of war: "The spade may be nearly as dangerous to the army that uses it as to the one that neglects it. Like everything else, it is good in its way. That way is given a long way, but its end can be reached. If the infantry soldier gets thoroughly convinced that in the sheltered trench lie his hopes of safety he will doubtless be a hard man to drive out of these trenches. But it may also be a difficult matter to drive him on from them to the front. Digging may save a battle from being lost, but it has never won a decisive victory, and it probably never will."—*Manchester Guardian*.

Dragoons.

Four centuries ago, when firearms were in their infancy, soldiers were named from the weapons they bore. These infantrymen were called "pikes" or "shot," according to their weapons. The "dragon" was a short musket or carbine, and the soldiers who bore them were dragoons. The original dragoons were mounted infantrymen, being organized as infantry. On this account, being without cavalry training, they were decidedly poor horsemen, but they improved until they were classed as medium cavalry.—*American Boy*.

Labor.

Those favored few who by their rank or their riches are exempted from all exertion have no reason to be thankful for the privilege. It was the observation of this necessity that led the ancients to say that the gods sold us everything but gave us nothing.—*Charles Colton*.